

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 29, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Professional Firefighters

BILL NUMBER: SB 88
AUTHOR: M. DeSaulnier

BILL SUMMARY: Vehicles: Firefighter's License Plates

This bill would increase fees for the acquisition of California Firefighter license plates and establish new procedures for their retention upon the death of the firefighter who held them.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) estimates costs to be minor and absorbable. With the fee increases, DMV estimates an additional \$330,000 would be generated annually in renewal fees, and between \$23,000 and \$34,000 in additional revenue on new plate sales.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral because fees generated from the California Firefighter license plate program provide revenue to the California Fire Foundation, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, and fees have not increased since the program began over ten years ago. The fee increase would be used to meet the increase in demand for the California Fire Foundation's services.

Existing law requires DMV to issue, upon the payment of an initial fee of \$35 and a \$20 fee for each renewal registration, California Firefighter license plates to qualified firefighters. Revenues derived from the payment of these special fees for Firefighter license plates, less the department's costs, are required to be deposited in the California Firefighter's Memorial Fund. Upon the death of a person issued California Firefighter plates, the plates must be transferred to the surviving spouse, upon that survivors' request within 60 days of the death of the plate holder or upon expiration of the registration, whichever occurs first.

This bill would increase to \$50 and \$35, respectively, the original and renewal fee for the California Firefighter license plate. The proposed fees would align with fees charged for other California specialized license plates. Additionally, the bill would allow a member of the deceased firefighter's family to retain one of the plates as a family heirloom if both the veteran and spouse are deceased.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	Fund Code
2740/DMV	SO	No		-----	Minor Fiscal Impact -----				0044
1141/MV Registra	RV	No		--	U	\$353 - 374	U	\$353 - 374	0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF								

Analyst/Principal (0744) J. Gregg	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)